Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport

Plan for 2016-17

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Government of Saskatchewan

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Statement from the Minister

The Honourable Mark Docherty

Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport

I am pleased to present the Parks, Culture and Sport Ministry Plan for 2016-17.

Government Direction and Budget for 2016-17 invests in people and infrastructure to *Keep Saskatchewan Strong*, and initiates a government-wide exercise of transformational change to ensure the sustainability of high quality public services delivered in the most effective and efficient way possible.

Preserving our history is important to us at the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport. It is our job to preserve our cultural and historical resources, particularly as our province continues to grow. The Ministry is committed to providing first-class programs, services and events through our museums such as the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM), Government House, and our provincial historic parks and sites to educate visitors about our past. We continue to invest in historic downtown properties through programs like Main Street Saskatchewan, to help restore what once was.

In 2016, we will not only preserve our history – we will make history. In May, the RSM chose Scotty the T.rex as the official provincial fossil, with help from Saskatchewan students and residents, to represent our rich paleontological history. This will make Saskatchewan one of only three provinces in Canada to have a provincial fossil. Government House will celebrate its 125th Anniversary with a variety of events planned, including a public "At Home" celebratory event in September. This event will resemble one of the open-door receptions hosted by the Lieutenant Governor during the early years of Government House.

By preserving and making history, we will build pride in our province. We will showcase and celebrate our capital city and our province through the Provincial Capital Commission as we lead up to Canada's 150th Anniversary.

We will continue to contribute to a high quality of life for Saskatchewan residents – through access to historical and cultural resources, access to sport and recreation activities, and through our parks. The Ministry will collaborate with Creative Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Arts Board to support and strengthen our province's creative industries.

Saskatchewan's provincial parks and recreation sites hit a new attendance record of nearly 3.9 million visits in 2015 and we expect that number to continue to grow. We will continuously review and improve our programs and service delivery to maintain high visitor satisfaction.

Our progress will be reported on in the 2016-17 annual report.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to building on Saskatchewan's foundational strengths, investing in needed infrastructure and in vital programs and services for the people of our province. The Government has made a simple yet significant commitment – to *Keep Saskatchewan Strong.* This year marks the beginning of a government-wide exercise of transformational change to ensure the sustainability of high quality public services delivered in the most effective, efficient way possible.

This focus will advance Government toward the realization of Saskatchewan's Vision and goals.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Saskatchewan's Vision and goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and third parties to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's residents.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2016-17 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The Ministry supports, celebrates and builds pride in Saskatchewan. The Ministry's strategic focus is on quality of life and economic growth. The Ministry works with diverse groups and communities to enhance the Province's cultural, artistic, recreational and social life; promote excellence in the arts, culture, heritage and sport; and support a vibrant and growing arts and cultural community. The Ministry manages and enhances Saskatchewan's provincial parks system, conserves ecosystems and cultural resources, and provides recreational and interpretive opportunities for park visitors. The Ministry is also responsible for the Provincial Capital Commission.

Mission Statement

Contribute to Saskatchewan's high quality of life, instill pride and enhance economic growth through management of the Saskatchewan provincial parks system, the provision of arts, culture, recreation, sport and tourism opportunities, and through stewardship of provincial heritage resources.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people
Meeting the challenges of growth
Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people
Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry Goal

High quality visitor experiences

Strategy

Maintain, renew and expand provincial park infrastructure and facilities to meet growing park visitor needs, while achieving an overall reduction in the infrastructure deficit.

Key Actions

- Continue to implement an improved asset management system for provincial parks to inform and support decisions on priorities for capital investment across the park system.
- Respond to growing park visitor needs for camping, recreational and cultural opportunities by enhancing and maintaining park infrastructure, such as upgrades to electrical service and potable water systems.

Strategy

Enhance visitor programs, service delivery and the range of attractions available in provincial parks that will increase visitation and maintain high visitor satisfaction.

Key Actions

- Expand and implement targeted recreational, educational and cultural programs, services and events directed at new and returning visitors: new Canadians, First Nations, youth, young adults and "new-to-nature".
- Continue to work with the private sector to facilitate renewal / expansion and development of new recreational services in or adjacent to parks. This will help to enhance the array of attractions and opportunities for visitors to provincial parks.
- Continue consultations and planning with local interests, First Nations and stakeholders for the establishment of a new provincial park in the Porcupine Hills area.

Strategy

Increase visitation and meet visitor expectations at Government House, the RSM and the T.rex Discovery Centre.

Key Action

- Revitalize existing and establish new interpretive exhibits and displays to ensure the content is current and relevant to visitors. Provide innovative and engaging public experiences at the RSM and Government House including year-long celebrations for the 125th Anniversary of Government House.

Performance Measures

Number of Visitor Days in Saskatchewan Provincial Parks

Increase the number of visitor days spent in Saskatchewan provincial parks.

Satisfaction with Saskatchewan Provincial Parks Visit

Maintain high levels of satisfaction with the visitor experiences in Saskatchewan provincial parks.

Number of Visitors at Ministry Attractions

Increase the number of visitors to the RSM, Government House and T.rex Discovery Centre.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry Goal

Saskatchewan park lands, heritage sites and collections are protected and conserved

Strategy

Increase and improve heritage site protection, conservation and management.

Key Actions

- Ensure our province's natural, cultural and heritage sites are sustained for the enjoyment of future generations by:
  - continuing work on increasing the number of provincial heritage property designations through raising awareness and promoting the positive benefits of protecting heritage property; and,
  - completing assessments and documentation of key cultural sites protected under *The Parks Act* to update site condition reports and initiate an annual site monitoring plan.
- Provide archaeological and built heritage regulatory and advisory services to assist property owners and resource developers in project reviews and approvals.
- Continue the Main Street Saskatchewan Program to support revitalization of historic commercial downtowns through capacity building, heritage conservation and community enhancement to strengthen our communities and support our growing Saskatchewan.
- Increase heritage conservation, site management and reuse plans for heritage properties including historic sites on provincial park lands.

Strategy

The Ministry's heritage collections and assets are preserved, and documented to museum and / or conservation standards.

Key Actions

- Launch a capital fundraising campaign for renewal and revitalization of Government House through the Government House Foundation.
- Continue to implement a modernized and standardized approach to collections management in Government House, Heritage Conservation Branch, the RSM and in provincial parks to ensure collections are properly conserved for future generations.
- Increase the preservation and protection of provincial heritage collections in palaeontology and archaeology at the RSM by re-housing archaeology collections in museum-quality storage containers and by digitally cataloguing all fossils.
- Increase our knowledge of, and public interest in, Saskatchewan's natural history through scientific research at the RSM.

Strategy

Protect the health of the ecosystem in Saskatchewan provincial parks.

Key Action

- In various parks, assess the condition and quality of range land. Implement grassland restoration projects, invasive exotic plant species control programs, core area vegetation management and regenerate unnaturally old Lodgepole Pine forests.

Performance Measures

Number of Recorded Archaeological Heritage Properties

Increase the number of recorded archaeological heritage properties.

Total Hectares Treated with Biological, Chemical, Mechanical or Other Controls Including the Use of Prescribed Burns

Increase the number of hectares treated for invasive exotic plant species.

Total Number of Forested Hectares Treated by Either Mechanical Harvesting or Prescribed Burns per Year in Natural Environment Parks

Increase the number of forested hectares treated that reduce the ecosystem deficit in natural environment parks.

Ministry Goal

Strong arts, culture and heritage sectors

Strategy

Increase the impact of the arts, culture, and heritage sectors and creative industries on Saskatchewan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Key Actions

- Work with Creative Saskatchewan to continue to grow a creative economy through provincial investment in the commercialization of creative products by bringing Saskatchewan's creative talent to market through grant programs.
- Work with the Saskatchewan Arts Board to continue to support the arts community through investment in the arts, artists and arts organizations that will enrich community well-being, creativity, diversity and prosperity.
- Continue the development and implementation of a long-term strategic facility-use plan for the Canada-Saskatchewan Production Studio (Soundstage).

Performance Measures

Total Culture GDP in Saskatchewan

Improve the overall contribution of culture to Saskatchewan's GDP.

Total Employment in the Arts and Culture Sector in Saskatchewan

Track the number of jobs in the arts and culture sector in Saskatchewan.

Ministry Goal

Increased participation in sport, culture and recreation

Strategy

Implement Saskatchewan's priorities from the Framework for Recreation in Canada (2015) with sector partners.

Key Actions

- The Ministry will participate in and monitor the collective efforts of the sport, culture and recreation sectors in implementing the Framework for Recreation in Canada (2015).
- Develop a government strategy to reduce barriers to participation in sport, culture and recreation.
- Ensure investments made through the Community Initiatives Fund are accessible and inclusive through regional workshops, community visits and an online grant application.
- Enter into partnership with the City of Swift Current Host Society for the 2019 Western Canada Summer Games which provides an opportunity for developing athletes, coaches and officials to participate in a multi-sport event in preparation for a higher level of competition.
- Direct funds collected from snowmobile registrations to the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Trail Fund for ongoing safety programs, improved maintenance and operation of trails throughout the province.
- Continue to provide financial support of $2,500 per ice surface for skating and curling rinks in Saskatchewan through the Community Rink Affordability Grant.
- Partner with other ministries and stakeholders to develop a workplace wellness online resource.

Strategy

Educate and promote awareness about past and current roles of government in a democratic society through the Provincial Capital Commission.

Key Actions

- Develop and deliver Provincial Capital Commission programs and events by coordinating:
  - Saskatchewan's participation in and delivery of key initiatives that support and promote Canada's 150th Anniversary;
  - the Charles Knight Youth Mentorship Program which brings northern high school students to Regina to learn about democracy, governance and provincial history;
  - "A Day in the Legislative Assembly", which provides grade eight students across the province an opportunity to visit and tour the Saskatchewan Legislative building and a unique experience learning about the democratic system of government; and,
  - plans for the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Canadian victory at the Battle of Vimy Ridge fought in 1917.

Highlights

2016-17 Budget Highlights:

The Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport will continue to operate programs in support of provincial parks, heritage, the RSM and Government House. The Ministry will also continue to fund and support our partners and stakeholders in promoting the value of arts, culture, sport and recreation.

Provincial parks visitation and visitor satisfaction remain high and Saskatchewan Parks will work to maintain infrastructure and offer new programs to keep attracting new visitors.

The Ministry will continue to keep the arts, culture, sport and recreation sectors and stakeholders strong and viable by investing:

- $7.0M to Saskatchewan Arts Board to keep our arts community strong by investing in the arts, artists and arts organizations;
- $7.7M to Creative Saskatchewan to grow a creative economy and the commercialization of creative products;
- $1.7M for the Community Rink Affordability Grant, which provides $2,500 per ice surface to curling and skating rinks in the province;
- $2.1M (estimated) in snowmobile registration fees directed to the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Trail Fund for improved trail maintenance and operation and ongoing safety programs;
- $0.5M for the 2019 Western Canada Summer Games in Swift Current; and,
- $25.0M – the final payment made by the Government of Saskatchewan to the new stadium in Regina.

In order to ensure that government investment remains focussed on providing effective and efficient core programs and services, the 2016-17 budget introduces two program reductions:

- Provincial funding totaling $540,000 for five urban parks - Wakamow in Moose Jaw, Chinook Parkway in Swift Current, Pehonan in Prince Albert, River Valley in Battlefords and Tatagwa in Weyburn has been eliminated. These urban parks will continue to be assets to the urban municipalities and will continue to provide benefits to the quality of life of the residents in those cities.
- The Active Families Benefit, a refundable Personal Income Tax credit, is being eliminated, saving the government $5.5 million per year. The credit was initiated to assist families with the cost of registering children in cultural, recreational and sports activities however, those who would most benefit from the credit often lack the resources to pay initial fees or equipment costs for activities. Support for these families is available through programs at the community level such as those administered through the Lotteries Trust Fund and / or funded through private personal and corporate donations.

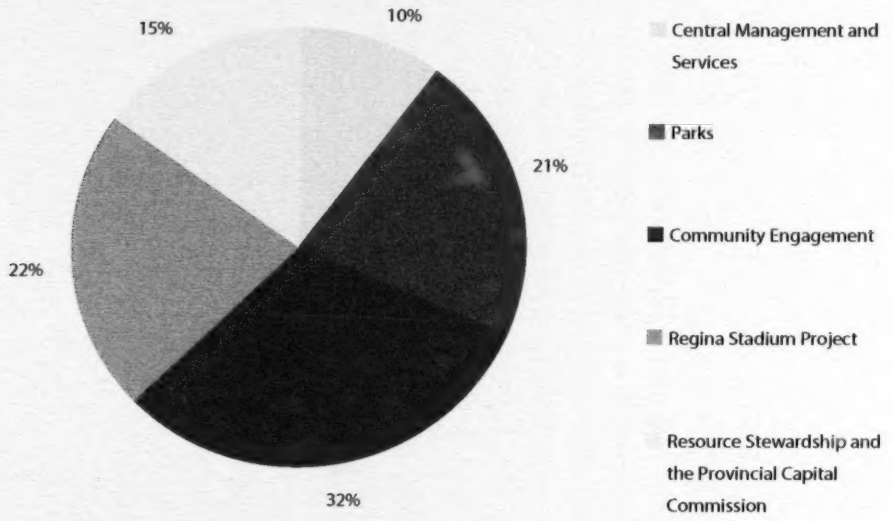
Financial Summary

2016-17 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	$11,489
Parks	23,914
Community Engagement	35,184
Resource Stewardship and the Provincial Capital Commission	16,996
Regina Stadium Project	25,000
Ministry Operations Appropriation	**112,583**
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(5,050)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	3,860
Ministry Expense	**111,393**

FTE Staff Complement	
Ministry	121. 9
Commercial Revolving Fund	238. 8
Total FTE Complement	**360. 7**

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget

Ministry Spending by Key Program Area



For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/parks-culture-and-sport